

OCA
REG 11

OCA 86-1837
30 May 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: All OCA Employees
FROM: Dave Gries
SUBJECT: Written Questions from the Hill

Recently the DCI complained that among some recent questions received from one of the intelligence committees were a number

STAT T
STAT
In running this down, I discovered to my surprise that questions from budget-related hearings, whether held in the intelligence committees or in the defense subcommittees, do not come through OCA until the questions have been answered and the finished product is ready for transmission to the Hill. Accordingly, OCA has no way to judge whether the questions are appropriate.

I discussed this with Danny Child and we agreed that henceforth the Comptroller's office will route such questions to OCA at the same time as they are sent to the answering office. I believe it is our job to review those questions that are not purely budget questions for appropriateness and comment directly to the answering office if we have something useful to say. The objective is not to resist and in any way impede answering questions. The objective is to encourage answering offices to focus on the meaty, useful questions, while helping them to spend less time on the nitpicks as well as the occasional inappropriate questions. In my view, there are several ways to handle the latter.

--Recommend that the answering office prepare a single, general answer to a grouping of nitpick-type questions.

--Give very general answers to questions we consider inappropriate (sources and methods, other Agency responsibilities, high sensitivity levels, etc.).

--On occasion telephone the appropriate staff director and ask that a question be reframed or dropped.

I ask everyone's cooperation. Although you can assume I will receive my own copy of incoming questions, I encourage the three divisions to give me their recommendations on whether special treatment is required for any questions in a particular series. I would then expect to telephone at the office director level and give OCA's suggestions on how to proceed. When the questions are budget-related, we will do this in conjunction with the Comptroller's office.

STAT



Dave Gries

Distribution:

Original - OCA Record✓

- 1 - D/OCA Chrono
- 1 - EO/OCA
- 1 - DD/HA/OCA
- 1 - ADD/SA/OCA
- 1 - DD/Legislation/OCA
- 1 - AO/OCA
- 1 - OCA Chrono

D/OCA:DDG:mdo (30 May 1986)